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1837

Private

My Dear Mr Garrison I see
in a late number of "the
Liberator" a very kind notice
of "the Autobiography of a Female
Slave" I thank you deeply
for this - and am proud to have
the book kindly spoken of by
one - who is himself the
leader - the Messiah of
Anti-slavery.

The Author of the
book is a girl to whom the
Anti-slavery movement is
entirely unknown - that is
the history of it - Indeed
she had scarcely heard
more than the name of
William Lloyd Garrison

and an abolition paper,
tract or story had never
fallen into their hands. and
with the exception of a few
of Mr Sumner's speeches
she was ignorant of the many
bold words which have been
put forth in behalf of the
slave - So her anti-slavery
is almost involuntary or
rather it sprang from a
secret-heart sympathy
with the weak and oppressed
and a horror for cruelty &
inhumanity. ~~And~~^{Thus} the book
may be taken as the
personal testimony of
one who was born and
bred among slave-holders.
and who tells of what-

she has seen - The book
is no wild and startling
romance but the sincere
narration of stern facts
and is a revelation from
that dark house of bondage!

I desire that it may have
a full hearing and so do
a work of mercy. I claim
nothing for it - on the
score of literary merit.
I am well aware that
the facts (horrible ones)
are loosely and inartistically
put together and presented
without any regard to
dramatic effect - but -
then if "truth be stranger
than fiction" it can

and must do its work —
without adumment —
You will understand the
full amount of the Author's
ignorance of the Abolition
movement — when you see
that she has spoken of
Parker, Sumner & Seward
as the leaders of Abolition!!
This arises from the fact
that these three names
often met her eye in
reading Southern journals
and as they were ^{there} spoken of
with contempt & contumely
she imagined they were
the "head & front" of the
movement —
Commending the book
to your kind patronage

and wishing you a long
continuance of your
useful and exemplary
life, I have the honor to
be, dear Mr Garrison,

Yours truly

Matth Griffith

Phil Pa Dec 4th 1856

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Note. Miss Griffith, the author
of "The Autobiography of a Female Slave,"
emancipated the slaves she inherited,
& left Kentucky for a home in the free
North. She married Albert G. Brown, Jr.,
private secretary of Gov. John A. Andrew of
Massachusetts.

Mattie Griffiths
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